

The Myth of the Homocaust.

By Julia Gasper, D. Phil.

What deserves the name of genocide? The term should not be thrown around lightly. Most schools and universities teach nothing about the genocide of one and half million Armenian Christians in Turkey in 1917-18. They do not feature the extermination of 45 million Hindus by Muslims in the past half century, nor do they often draw the attention of pupils to the estimated 100 million civilians massacred worldwide by communist regimes since 1917. Whatever is taught needs to be supported by the most thorough research and selected with a sense of perspective.

British schools are now under increasing pressure to teach homosexual history and prominent among the items for inclusion is the so-called "Homocaust". This is the claim that the Nazis persecuted homosexuals, not just incidentally, but to the same extent that they persecuted the Jews. The website of "Gay" History Month, set up to provide teaching resources for schools in the UK asserts that homosexuals were sent in their "tens of thousands to the Nazi death camps".¹ Elsewhere it says that the number was 15,000, without offering any sources.² LGBT militants are to be found behaving very assertively in Holocaust Memorial events.³ The message is clear - "Move over, Anne Frank, we are the real victims." But where exactly is the documentary evidence to support such a claim? My suspicions about this sort of "gay history" were confirmed when I consulted the book *Hidden Holocaust? Gay and Lesbian Persecution in Germany 1933-45*, by Gunter Grau and Claudia Shoppmann.⁴ Note the question mark in the title of this book, which is the only really authoritative academic study of the matter based on archive sources. Grau and Shoppmann, of Humboldt University, Berlin, have gone through the records meticulously, and they include various historical documents, including legislation, testimonies and correspondence. In his introduction, Gunter Grau discusses the theory that there was a major

¹<http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/calendar/Archive2010/LGBT%20History%20Month%20Events.php?recordID=413>

² <http://www.schools-out.org.uk/?news=israel-to-build-its-first-monument-to-gay-victims-of-the-nazis>

³ <http://www.schools-out.org.uk/?news=israel-to-build-its-first-monument-to-gay-victims-of-the-nazis>

⁴ Gunter Grau and Claudia Shoppmann, *Hidden Holocaust? Gay and Lesbian Persecution in Germany 1933-45*, 1995. English translation Routledge, 21 Aug 2013. ISBN-10: 0304329568.

"Homocaust" of homosexuals under the Nazis and concludes that it is not true.⁵ He refers to some wildly inflated figures circulated by homosexual activists - as high as one and half million - but states plainly "such notions do not stand up to critical scrutiny". Grau says that according to the police and legal archives, there were 50,000 convictions of male homosexuals during the entire Nazi period, and out of these only about 5,000 of them were sent to labour or prison camps. And these institutions, grim though they were, were not the same as extermination camps.⁶

Grau writes, "In these speculations about a supposed "final solution" to the problem of homosexuality, there is clearly a failure to differentiate what was said in Nazi programmes from what was actually carried out. If Himmler's eradication rhetoric is thought to reflect the fate of individual homosexuals, then obviously the Nazis' policy will be seen as a drive to exterminate them all in the literal sense of the word. But things appear in a different light once we distinguish between anti-homosexual propaganda for public consumption and the reality on the ground. Himmler's phraseology did indeed refer to the eradication of homosexuality, which he saw as a (decadent) phenomenon of public life. But he did not aim to wipe out every single gay man."

Following actual Nazi records, Grau reveals that the number of homosexuals in camps was tiny - less than one per cent. In Buchenwald by 1942 there were still only fifty. Later by 1944 it rose to a maximum of 189.⁷ Those who were there were certainly treated very cruelly, and by 1945, 96 homosexuals had died at Buchenwald. But that is a drop in the ocean compared to the death-toll of the Jews and the gypsies. The causes were harsh work conditions, poor diet and disease, which was rife towards the end of the war. The pink triangle inmates were not killed as part of a campaign of extermination. None of these victims was sent to a gas chamber.

If we compare Grau and Shoppmann's research to the liberal pro-LGBT version of events given on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, we find a marked tendency to exaggerate. It tells us "[Between 1933 -45, an estimated 100,000 men were arrested as homosexuals,](#)" *[that is double the real figure researched by Grau]* and of these, some 50,000 officially defined homosexuals were sentenced. Most of these men spent

⁵ Grau and Shoppmann , *Hidden Holocaust?* p.5.

⁶ Ibid. p. 6.

⁷ Ibid p. 264.

time in regular prisons” [*which is not the same as a death-camp*] “and an estimated 5,000 to 15,000 of the total sentenced were incarcerated in concentration camps” . [*The actual figure of 5,000 is being inflated to three times its magnitude, without any documentary source quoted*]. “How many of these "175ers" perished in the concentration camps will probably never be known. Historical research to date has been very limited. One leading scholar, Ruediger Lautmann, believes that the death rate for "175ers" in the camps **may have been** as high as sixty per cent.”

According to Grau’s research it was around 50% and so the final death-toll is actually half of 5,000 – making a figure of 2,500.

The USHMM website is honest in one respect. It tells us “The vast majority of homosexual victims were males; lesbians were not subjected to systematic persecution. While lesbian bars were closed, few women are believed to have been arrested. Paragraph 175 did not mention female homosexuality.” It mentions Henny Schermann, the Jewish lesbian who was gassed at Ravensbruck concentration camp in 1942, and makes it clear that she was killed for being a Jew. “Unlike Jews, men arrested as homosexuals were not systematically deported to Nazi-established ghettos in eastern Europe. Nor were they transported in mass groups of homosexual prisoners to Nazi extermination camps in Poland.” So the USHMM site at least acknowledges a distinction between homosexuals imprisoned as criminals and Jews subjected to genocide.

When we look at a sensational LGBT website entitled www.homocaust.com, recommended by none other than Ben Summerskill, chief executive of the fanatical Stonewall organization in England, we find even greater exaggeration and downright misrepresentation. When you enter the Homocaust website it confronts you with stark claims. It states boldly “**Between 1939 and 1944 gay men and women were persecuted under the Nazi party.**” Women? After a thorough review of the laws and the police records, Claudia Schoppman states authoritatively that lesbianism was not criminalised under the Nazis and that lesbians were not "intensively prosecuted" in the way that homosexual males were. There was an ideological hostility but no lesbians were arrested, or sent to prison or concentration camps.⁸

The Homocaust website carefully gives the impression that Germany’s anti-homosexual laws were passed in 1939 although they actually dated back to the 19th century,

⁸ Ibid p.8- 12.

long before the Nazis came to power. Then it goes on to say “**100,000 were arrested, 50,000 were imprisoned, 15,000 were sent to labour camps, 4,000 survived, 11,000 weren't so lucky**”. It displays a series of black and white identity photographs of men imprisoned for violating paragraph 175, the original German law against homosexuality. And these photographs come from the Auschwitz museum. But does that prove that the people shown were all in Auschwitz? Or that they died there? Their names are not given so we have no idea whether they were Jewish or not. On the next page the claims are repeated in a much watered-down form, using figures recognizable from the USHMM website. "During the Nazi period *up to* 100,000 gay men & women were persecuted & imprisoned for their sexuality under Paragraph 175 of the German Penal code. The Third Reich had no place for such 'deviants' & set out a systematic strategy to rid itself of this 'poison'. About 15,000 were sent to concentration camps where, forced to wear the 'pink triangle', as many as 60% lost their lives." But as we know from Grau, the number sent to labour camps was only 5,000 and these were not extermination camps. Half of that 5,000 survived the war.

It is not plausible to say that "the Third Reich had no place for such deviants", since the number of homosexuals in top Nazi jobs and in the SS who ran the death-camps is very well-documented and beyond dispute. The Homocaust website claims that homosexuals were singled out for worse treatment and harsher conditions than other inmates of labour camps and concentration camps. That is nonsense. There is abundant evidence of other prisoners suffering just as severely, or worse, than is described here. They were skeletons worked into the ground on starvation rations, then gassed in their millions, men, women and children. They were beaten, burnt, raped, tortured, shot...need I go on?

The authors eke out the evidence by including examples of victims who were Jewish and many who were not actually sent to a death-camp either. The site, which seems to be authored by a certain Lewis Oswald, provides the following names:-

Heinz Heger. This was the pen name used by Josef Kohout (1917–1994) author of a book "The Men With the Pink Triangle". Many people regard this as being fiction. Written in 1972, 28 years after the war, it has all the hallmarks of gay pornography. In the Homocaust site it is taken at face value as history. If it is reliable, then one cannot also assert that Nazis did not engage in homosexuality - far from it. As far as facts are concerned, Heger was sent to Sachsenhausen, a prison camp that was not an extermination camp in the same sense that Auschwitz and Dachau were.

Gad Beck - he was Jewish.

Heinz F - without a full name how do we trace him to establish if he was Jewish?

Annette Eick, born 1909 - a Jewish lesbian who fled Germany in 1938 and died in 2010.⁹

Henny Schermann born 1912 - another Jewish lesbian, mentioned as such by the USHMM, which also admits that women were never targeted by Section 175.

Paul Gerhard Vogel - he seems to have been genuine non-Jewish homosexual but he was not sent to a concentration camp. He was sent to a labour camp called Emsland in Holland. Later he was sent to Norway and used as forced labour. Unlike 6 million Jews, he survived the war. In fact he lived to the age of 97.¹⁰

Pierre Seel - yes, he was another non-Jewish homosexual but he was not sent to a concentration camp either. A Frenchman, he was arrested in 1941 by the invading German forces and treated very badly while being held in prison for six months. But he was never made to wear the pink triangle and after six months he was released.¹¹

Karl Gorath - yes, he does seem to have been non-Jewish. But rather than being forced to do hard labour and starved to death, when first convicted as a homosexual he was required to work as a nurse in a hospital at Wittenberg. He was then convicted of another offence. "One day, a guard ordered me to decrease the bread ration for the patients who were Polish war prisoners, but I refused, telling him that it was inhuman to treat the Poles in this way. As punishment, I was sent to Auschwitz, and this time, rather than being marked as a "175er," I wore the red triangle of a political prisoner. At Auschwitz I had a lover who was Polish; his name was Zbigniew." So although he was a non-Jewish homosexual and in Auschwitz, he was not there for being a homosexual. Karl was liberated from Auschwitz in 1945.¹²

Heinz Dörmer Like other 175-ers, he was not sent to an extermination camp. "In April 1935, Dörmer was accused of homosexual activities with members of his troop, and from 1941 to 1944 he was imprisoned for "corrupting the youth" at Neuengamme concentration

⁹ <http://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/2010/apr/26/annette-eick-obituary>

¹⁰ http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Gerhard_Vogel

¹¹ Pierre Seel, *I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual: A Memoir of Nazi Terror*, trans. Joachim Neugroschel . And http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Seel

¹² <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/idcard.php?ModuleId=10006529>

camp, a "holding tank for homosexuals, politicals, and non-German aliens." " Note that Dormer was a pederast, not just a homosexual, and that he was kept in prison but never treated in the same horrific way as Jewish inmates of Auschwitz. He was released from prison when the laws against homosexuality were eventually repealed. The Homocaust website is not reliable history. It sets out to exaggerate and sensationalize, and does so on the basis of weak, confused evidence. It speaks of 100,000 victims and finally shows us evidence of ... none.

In the Encyclopedia section of the USHMM I can find only nine examples of homosexuals who suffered under the Nazis. These are:

- i) Gad Beck. Jewish as well as homosexual, he lived in hiding in Berlin until 1945, and his testimony says he was protected by rich homosexual friends. This confirms that many homosexuals survived and thrived under the Third Reich. When finally arrested he was sent to an internment camp, not a concentration camp, and he survived the war, living until 2011.
- ii) Photograph of an unnamed writer who was arrested for homosexuality in Germany in 1938. We don't know what happened to him.
- iii) An official order condemning a certain Rolf (first name expunged) for homosexual acts and sending him to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in July 1944. This was primarily used for political prisoners and the inmates were not expected to do hard labour.
- iv) Photograph of an anonymous actor who was imprisoned in 1937 for homosexuality. He was sent to Sachsenhausen in 1942 and released after the war.
- v) Photograph of another anonymous man, an interior designer, who was convicted for homosexuality in Dusseldorf and imprisoned for 18 months.¹³
- vi) Photograph of an unnamed bartender from Duisburg arrested for homosexuality in 1936. No details of any conviction or penalty.
- vii) Official ID pictures of a prisoner accused of homosexuality arriving in Auschwitz at some point between 1939 and 1945. He is not named and not wearing the pink triangle.¹⁴

¹³ http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_ph.php?MediaId=500

¹⁴ http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_ph.php?MediaId=3161

- viii) Official ID photos of another anonymous prisoner accused of homosexuality arriving in Auschwitz June 6th 1941. He died there a year later. This is from the Auschwitz museum. Without a name, how do we know if he was Jewish or not?¹⁵
- ix) Official ID photographs of a third anonymous male prisoner who arrived in Auschwitz on November 27th 1941. He was then transferred to the Mauthausen another very harsh camp on January 25th 1942.¹⁶

All in all, this handful of examples is enough to indicate that some homosexuals suffered under the Nazis, but since only one out of the nine examples definitely died in a concentration camp, it is not evidence of a “holocaust”. In fact to exaggerate it is to insult the memory of the six million Jews and at least 250,000 gypsies who were systematically eradicated by the Nazis as part of their ethnic cleansing programme.¹⁷

The twentieth century saw many large-scale massacres. In the USSR under communism, seven million Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death on the orders of Joseph Stalin.¹⁸ And holocausts continue. Nobody yet knows the true death-toll in Sri Lanka but it must be reckoned in millions.¹⁹ As for the mass genocidal attacks on Hindus by Muslims in Asia, they are usually ignored by the western world too, but recently there has been some progress in bringing them to light in Bangladesh. One news article about of the mass murder of Hindus in Bangladesh in 1971 provides first-hand testimony of 600 innocent civilians being slaughtered without charge or trial on one day, 21st May 1971.²⁰ It is supported by photographs, names, places and multiple corroboration. And the killings are part of a continuing campaign, ranging nationwide and lasting for decades. That in my view does merit the terms genocide and “Holocaust”.

The USHMM devotes another part of their website the Nazi persecution of Jehovah's

¹⁵ http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_ph.php?MediaId=3164

¹⁶ http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_ph.php?MediaId=3163

¹⁷ William A. Duna, Paul Polansky, *The Hidden Holocaust of the Gypsies*, Sa-Roma, 1997. And <http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/gypsies.htm>

¹⁸ Miron Dolot, *Execution by Hunger: The Hidden Holocaust*, W. W. Norton & Company, 14 Feb 2011.

¹⁹ *Sri Lanka, the Hidden Holocaust: Harare Declaration and Sri Lanka*. Pub. Tamil Centre for Human Rights

²⁰ <http://www.hinduhumanrights.info/bangladesh-600-hindus-killed-on-a-single-day-freedom-fighter-testifies-at-tribunal/>

Witnesses. I notice that this subject is presented with far greater clarity and supported with far better documentation. Of the 30,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany in 1935, about 5,000 -6,000 were exterminated by the Nazis. The site provides seventeen detailed personal histories, each fully documented with a full name, photograph, ID card, birth and death dates and a first-hand written or spoken testimony. Men, women and children were tortured, worked to death and sometimes beheaded – yes, beheaded - for their religious defiance of the Nazis. The Jehovah's Witnesses have meticulously preserved the records of this part of their history and presented excerpts in a lucid, professional manner. Needless to say they never demand public memorials in any part of the world and they have never insisted on being included in school history lessons about the Holocaust. When one disagrees with the assertions of the Jehovah's Witnesses, they do not emotively accuse one of being a Nazi or reviving the Nazi persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses. That is because they are more logical than the LGBT extremists.²¹

Professor Jonathan Zimmerman of New York University has written a short web article on the subject of Nazi persecution of homosexuals.²² And this article is widely quoted as a source by other articles.²³ Professor Zimmerman writes, "Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis arrested roughly 100,000 men as homosexuals. Most convicted gays were sent to prison; between 5,000 and 15,000 were interned in concentration camps, where they wore pink triangles to signify their supposed crime." This is not supported by any reference to sources. And its figures echo those on the website of USHMM, which as we have seen, admits that they are only wild speculation. Zimmerman has taken the initial figure of 100,000 and given it prominence, ignoring the USHMM's information that 50,000 of those arrested were not convicted. He has then taken their "between 5,000 and 15,000" and removed the word "estimated". He does not include any names, any documents or even a generalized reference to an archive. He goes on to deny that there were homosexuals in the Nazi party and the SS, which does not convince me at all. A book like Samuel Igra's *Germany's National Vice* makes it clear from contemporary first-hand knowledge that the Nazis were very inclined to such activities. Even the book by Heinz Heger used as a source in the

²¹ <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005394>

²² <http://www.bakersfieldcalifornian.com/opinion/forum/x254542695/Did-Nazis-persecute-gays-or-were-they-gay-themselves>

²³ <http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2011/08/29/yet-another-historian-refutes-gay-nazi-claim/>

Homocaust website confirms that there was a lot of homosexuality going on among SS guards in the concentration camps. Zimmerman (whose qualifications in academic history are unclear, and who appears to be more of a sociologist than a historian to judge from his published books) does not provide the sort of documentary, authentic evidence needed for his assertion nor does he refer us to other research that might do so. He appears to be unaware of the research by Grau and Shoppman.

Zimmerman's statements are taken as authoritative because he has got a professor's title, but that is misleading. What we have today in the West is a fake academia that is nothing more than a queer Marxist club. Rather than fostering genuine research, it teaches fallacies and promulgates myths for the sake of its left-wing ideology. Bad research is applauded for being politically "correct". Good research is damned and ignored, or treated as a crime and a breach of policy.

To sum up, the idea that there was a "Homocaust" is a myth. Only 5,000 homosexuals were incarcerated under the Nazis, and about 2,500 died. There was no systematic extermination programme and such numbers do not by any means merit the term "genocide" or "Holocaust". To make a song and dance about 2,500 victims, when millions of people have been killed by AIDS, reveals a warped sense of priorities. We need to get the facts in perspective.